



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**New Hampshire State Office**

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **On-Farm Energy Audits Help Agricultural Producers Improve Energy Conservation and Efficiency**

### *USDA Assistance Available to Producers to Conduct and Implement Energy Audits*

On January 28, 2011, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the expansion of a USDA initiative to help farmers and ranchers conduct energy audits and improve their overall energy efficiency. The initiative builds on the existing energy audit initiative to also help producers implement the energy conservation and efficiency recommendations that result from an energy audit.

“On-farm energy audits are one example of the many ways the Obama administration is supporting rural communities and helping rural families thrive,” Vilsack said. “Providing producers with the opportunity to assess their energy usage and make needed improvements can save money while also benefitting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

On-farm energy audits are tailored to each agricultural operation’s primary energy uses. The audits help producers determine the amount of energy used by the entire operation and also identify short- and long-term measures producers can implement to conserve energy and achieve greater energy efficiencies.

The On-Farm Energy Audit/Implementation Initiative is offered through USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides technical and financial assistance for this purpose through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The on-farm energy audits, which are offered as EQIP Agricultural Energy Management Plans, must be conducted by certified technical service providers. Producers who have had an on-farm energy audit conducted that meets or exceeds the criteria of an EQIP Agricultural Energy Management Plan may apply for technical and financial assistance to implement the audit’s recommendations.

Interested producers should contact their local NRCS office immediately to begin the application process. Application sign-ups are continuous.

NRCS has [offices](#) in Concord, Conway, Epping, Lancaster, Milford, Orford, and Walpole, which work with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners throughout the state. Office telephone numbers are:

Concord: 603-223-6023  
Conway: 603-447-2771  
Epping: 603-679-1587  
Lancaster: 603-788-4651  
Milford: 603-673-2409  
Orford: 603-353-4651  
Walpole: 603-756-2988

Contact your local office for more information. General program information is available on the NRCS New Hampshire website at [www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov).

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